

New Boston Fire Department 2014 Accomplishments

TARP Program/Recruit Program – The primary goal of this program is to ensure quality emergency medical coverage for New Boston during weekdays when many of our volunteers are out of town. Students will provide daytime coverage at **NO** cost to New Boston and in exchange they will have their tuition for Paramedic training paid for out of the grant. To date we have managed to reduce response times by 50%, while increasing the medical staff by 300% during the daytime. These programs have reduced stress on our regular members having to leave their jobs for emergency calls. The recruit program members are all volunteers from out of town that have agreed to work (1) 8 hour daytime shift a week to gain experience and promote their career goals. Recruits are now also covering the Town on Saturdays.

Operational Information – Our emergency calls were down 6% from 439 calls in 2013 to 414 calls in 2014. The costs of emergency budget expenditures were up from last year by 1.7%. This is due to the weekday personnel responding to medical calls, who do not receive expense reimbursements, thereby reducing the cost of the emergency.

Cadet Program – This program continues to serve the purpose of introducing the fire service to the youth of New Boston and surrounding towns. Presently there are 5 members. It is one of the more successful programs of its type, thanks to the Director, John Jones.

Financial Information - For 2013, we returned over \$13,000 to the general fund from our operational budget, this was partly a result of losing our Fire Inspector and not replacing him for some time, and the number of emergency calls being down, allow us to return 21% of that budget line.

Staffing – Our roster stands at 48 volunteer members, 9 Tarp members and 5 recruit members. Our cadet membership is currently at 5. The majority of our membership is very active. We're very fortunate to have such dedicated people willing to give up their personal time to be part of this organization. Neighbors helping neighbors!

Honor Guard – NBFDF is again very fortunate to be one of the few volunteer or career departments to have an Honor Guard. Our guard, that consists of Commander Brandon Merron, Asst. Commander Gina Catalano, Deputy Chief Rod Towne, Lt. Janet Chamberlain, Lt. Bryan Wells, FF Dave Rugg, FF John Jones

Fire Inspector – During 2014 our Fire Inspector, Russ Boland move on to the position of Town Administrator for the Town of Lyndeborough. Russ served as our Fire Inspector for 7 years. During his time with New Boston, he introduced a number of improvements to the position as well as increased the level of service to our residents and business owners. Russ also acquired several grants for the Fire Department, most notable being the grant for \$264K that has provided the Town with daytime coverage for our Rescue Squad. The program, the first of its kind in the state is called the TARP program, Tuition Assistance Reimbursement Program. The grant provided tuition funding for EMS persons from New Boston as well as throughout the state who were working to become paramedics, in exchange for the student working one 10 hour shift during the weekday. This resulted in our town having 2 EMS/Rescue personnel on duty during the weekday 5 days a week. Russ also headed up the Town Safety Committee for a number of years. While we will certainly miss Russ, we are very proud and happy for him in his new position.

During the period in which we had no “official” Fire Inspector, we were fortunate our Building Inspector, Ed Hunter, Fire Ward/Firefighter Scott Hunter, Capt. Mike Boyle and Fire Ward/Firefighter Wayne Blassberg volunteered to fill in, ensuring the services of the Fire Inspector continued to be provided.

Training – During 2014, the Fire Fighters and EMTs of NBFDF, led by Deputy Chief of Fire Training Rod Towne and EMS/Rescue Captain Gina Catalano, have been busy training, logging a total of 4118 hrs. of fire and rescue training. The number of hours spent attending in house training is very impressive with this year’s numbers totaling 2193 hours. These hours represent a lot of Wednesday nights, away from their families and on their own time, where our members work together practicing the various skills they will need to safely respond to our neighbor’s emergencies. Some of this training is strengthening old skills and some is learning new skills.

- Training data respectfully submitted by Deputy Chief of Fire Training Rod Towne and EMS Captain Gina Catalano.

New Member Certifications - We had one person achieve their Paramedic certification, 4 members achieved Fire Fighter One Certification, and 2 people became EMS certified. With these accomplishments, NBFDF membership has achieved a 99.5% certification in the particular areas they work, (Firefighter / EMT / Paramedic).